Cybersecurity Ribbon Cutting  
NSU Cybersecurity Complex  
Monday, May 23, 2018  
1:00pm

**President’s Remarks**

Good Afternoon to all and welcome to Norfolk State University – where we see the future in our students.

We are delighted to have Governor Northam here today and look forward to having Lieutenant Governor Fairfax on campus in May to serve as our commencement speaker.

Governor, thank you for being here. Please know that for more than 80 years, Norfolk State has shared your commitment to making higher education accessible to all Virginians.

Let me also acknowledge Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Alexander. Mayor thank you for your support and partnership with NSU. Together we are reimagining what is possible in Norfolk and building new partnerships between this City and NSU.

Mayor John Rowe of Portsmouth is also in attendance. Mayor thank you for your presence and for your steadfast support of Norfolk State University. I look forward to working with you and the City of Portsmouth on the road ahead.

I would also like to thank the Members of the General Assembly, City Council Members, and other elected officials that are in attendance.

The Rector of NSU’s Board of Visitors, Dr. Byron Cherry along with Board members Kenneth Crowder, Dr. Deborah DiCroce, Keith Fulton, and Joan Wilmer are also present. Thank you for your leadership and confidence as we work to continuously improve and enhance the Norfolk State community.

And last, but certainly not least, I want to acknowledge and thank Dr. Aurelia Williams, Chair of NSU’s Department of Computer Science and Director of the Cybersecurity Complex. Professor, thanks to you and your colleagues for making today possible. We could not do this work without your leadership and passion.

It is a great day to be a Spartan as we celebrate the opening of NSU’s Cybersecurity Complex and the start of a new chapter in the Norfolk State Story.

In 1935, Norfolk State University opened its doors in a tiny space at the local YMCA. Since then, we have become a leader in Cybersecurity, STEM, the Arts, and Business. We have also grown into a 136 acre campus with state of the art academic buildings and modern student housing, (which will soon be expanded with the addition of a 730 room residential housing complex), and athletic facilities anchored by an ever expanding base of alumni and corporate
supporters. Today’s ribbon cutting marks yet another milestone in NSU’s history of growth, opportunity, and progress.

Despite our progress, there is one thing that remains unchanged. And that is this: at Norfolk State University, students will always be first and a quality higher education will always be accessible to those who come through our doors committed to the pursuit of higher learning and self-empowerment.

As an HBCU for the modern world, NSU is grounded by its history, focused on the future, and deeply committed to the success of our students. On the road ahead we will move with a sense of urgency to:

- Expand our borders and broaden our horizons;
- Educate and shape the minds of global citizen leaders who will affect change and become leaders in the professions they choose; and
- Grow the university while continuing to make it fiscally robust and educationally vibrant for many, many years to come.

It takes a village to raise a child and to grow a university. The doors of Norfolk State University are always open for dialogue and partnership.

Today’s opening of the university’s New Cybersecurity complex represents a powerful opportunity for community and public-private partnerships between NSU and our neighbors in Hampton Roads and across Virginia.

By working together we will reimagine what is possible in cybersecurity while revitalizing our communities, securing our nation, and improving our world.

Thank you for being here today. There is no limit to what we can achieve by working together toward a common purpose.

BEHOLD. THE GREEN AND GOLD.